

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

By way of the instant amendment, claim 1 has been canceled. Thus, claims 2-14 remain for examination.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Valentine (6,504,839) in view of Hakim (6,614,780). Further, claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Valentine in view of Hakim and further in view of Billstrom (5,590,133).

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traverse.

By way of the instant amendment, applicant has placed claim 2 in independent form by incorporating therein the limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 has been canceled. All apparatus claims have been amended to depend, directly or indirectly upon claim 2. Further, method claim 11 has been amended to incorporate many of the limitations, in method format, recited in claim 2.

Claim 2 recites, among other things, a time division switch, a provider connection innerworking function device, an originating signal detection circuit, a selection signal reception circuit and a call processing device. All of these enumerated elements are specifically recited and set forth in applicant's independent claim 2. While the applied references show portions of applicant's recited limitations, they do not disclose nor make obvious applicant's invention as recited as a whole. In particular, Billstrom is recited as teaching time-division switching. Of course, applicant has not invented time-division switching *per se* but has utilized time-division switching within the context of the invention taken as a whole. Moreover, the originating signal detection circuit, the selection signal reception circuit and the call processing device recited in applicant's amended claim 2 find no counter part in the prior art references taken singularly or in combination. As such, the Patent

and Trademark Office has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicant's sole remaining independent claim 11 is phased in method format. This claim has likewise been amended to incorporate the various limitations, set forth in method format, which are also found in independent claim 2. As such, applicant submits that claim 11 is likewise patentable over the prior art.

Applicant's dependent claims are deemed to be patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on their independent claims 2 and 11.

Conclusions:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R.
§1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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